

Pappas Telecasting Companies' 'donation' of \$325,000 in airtime to Republican candidates in certain areas is yet another example of a powerful media group abusing its privileged access to the public airwaves. The public airwaves are owned by the public - and it is the FCC's duty to ensure that the airwaves are not used unfairly to advance the political agenda of one particular party. I am appalled that in this day and age, our media is becoming a propaganda machine -- as bad as the propaganda systems set up by dictators and tyrants in other countries. What is more appalling is that our own government is simply standing by and letting this happen -- to the detriment of our country's proud history of free speech, open debate and democratic involvement of the people - regardless of their economic circumstances.

Localism is not served when a corporate headquarters decides to provide one side in local elections a louder voice than others. During election season, local audiences should be offered genuine debate -- not disingenuous offers to "purchase" an equal amount of response time.

Pappas uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Pappas' actions are legally questionable and cast doubt on whether Pappas truly intends to serve the public interest. Their actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Further, they show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than just a returned postcard. Thank you.